

**To:** Card, Joan[Card.Joan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bahrman, Sarah  
**Sent:** Mon 8/10/2015 1:37:04 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Loosing my business! -- Gold King Mine Discharge

Thanks, Joan. Just listened to your voice mail. I'll head downstairs and talk to Marty.

Sarah E. Bahrman | Acting Director, Water Program | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8

(p) 303.312.6243 | (c) 303.903.8515 | (f) 877.876.9101

**From:** Card, Joan  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2015 7:17 AM  
**To:** Walt Baker  
**Cc:** Smith, Paula; Erica Gaddis; Craig Dietrich; Alan Matheson; Bahrman, Sarah; McGrath, Shaun; Ostrander, David; Hestmark, Martin  
**Subject:** Re: Loosing my business! -- Gold King Mine Discharge

+ Sarah David and Shaun

Walt, you raise issues that are of highest priority to us. Typically, we review the data in consultation with local health officials who make the decision about use. We would like to work with you and others to determine what relevant data is available in this case to begin those evaluations and consultations. Please work closely with Sarah on this. Thank you.

Joan Card

Senior Policy Advisor

Region 8

Sent from my EPA iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 7:12 AM, Walt Baker <[wbaker@utah.gov](mailto:wbaker@utah.gov)> wrote:

Joan,

What do you want to do about questions like this or other similar ones that most certainly will follow? At some point EPA, my office or the Utah Health Department will need to give the "all-clear" signal re: the resumption of normal recreational activities. My two questions for all of us are: 1) who is going to make that call and 2) what will be the basis of doing so? But of this I am certain, there needs to be a definitive and clear statement.

My monitoring crew has monitored pH at 4 locations along the San Juan through sunset on Sunday and the results are what we would normally expect in the river -- around 8.2. I would have expected the plume to have already entered into Utah but we cannot visually tell if that's the case. Unlike what was seen in Colorado and in New Mexico, the leading edge of the plume is not discernible and the spill appears to have been assimilated into the river as a consequence of mixing, buffering, and attenuation. We will continue to monitor today to validate "normalcy". We are also taking total and dissolved metals samples twice daily, beginning yesterday, but the initial results will not be available until probably Wednesday. At that point we should have an idea of whether we have any violations of our acute or chronic metals standards. At some point a statement will need to be made as to risks to human health re: drinking water supplies, recreational activities and the aquatic habitat.

I have seen no lab results since those EPA released last Friday on the Animas River and nothing yet on the NM reach of the San Juan River. Certainly the long-term aquatic ramifications of the spill will need to be investigated for a considerable time.

I don't advise being premature on giving the "all clear" signal. But I feel it important and necessary to establish the criteria upon which this decision would be based and to be transparent about it.

What are your thoughts on this and what can you share with me about EPA's answers to similar questions that may have been raised at the public meetings EPA has thus far held?

Utah will have a webpage open by COB today where we will provide the public with the info we have and will gather.

Call me if you'd like to discuss this.

Walt

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED] **Personal Matters/Ex. 6**  
**Date:** August 9, 2015 at 11:35:43 PM CDT  
**To:** <smith.paula@epa.gov>, <wbaker@utah.gov>  
**Cc:** <faulk.libby@epa.gov>, <jmpotter@utah.gov>, [REDACTED] **Personal Matters/Ex. 6**  
[REDACTED] **Personal Matters/Ex. 6**  
**Subject:** Loosing my business! -- Gold King Mine Discharge

Dear Paula and Walter,

My manager spent all day today trying to get information as to the health threat of the Gold King Mine spill to the San Juan River specifically on the section from [REDACTED] **Personal Matters/Ex. 6** I own [REDACTED] **Personal Matters/Ex. 6** located in [REDACTED] **Personal Matters/Ex. 6** right on the river which has been running river trips for over 58 years on this stretch including daily and multi-day trips. [REDACTED] **CBI/Ex. 4** if we cancel our trips. [REDACTED] **Personal Matters/Ex. 6**

The most frustrating deal is that we cannot get any information as to the health risks our clients and guides are facing from this spill at this section on the river. We are trying to figure out if we have to cancel the rest of the season or any trips at all!??

This is our livelihood and we have clients and our business with our lives oh hold!

Please HELP! Can either or both of you please have someone from your offices who have some information reach out to me or my manager [REDACTED] **Personal Matters/Ex. 6** at our main office

[REDACTED] **Personal Matters/Ex. 6** immediately Monday morning? Our livelihood depends on it.

Sincerely,

**Personal Matters/Ex. 6**